



DATE: February 26, 2016
TO: Transportation Commissioners, Executive Director, Executive Management Team, Branch Managers, and Office Directors
FROM: Andy Karsian, Office of Policy & Government Relations
RE: Weekly Legislative Report – 2016 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

Overview

Another very busy week at the Capitol. Legislators continue to debate a plethora of policy issues and transportation continues to be part of the discussions. In addition to legislating this week, the Senate Transportation Committee recommended for approval to the full Senate two members of the Colorado Aeronautics Board. All members of the Transportation Committee recommended for confirmation were confirmed this week by the Senate.

There are 429 introduced bills to date and there are rumors of around 100 more coming in the next few weeks. These do not include the variety of ‘official’ late bills that are introduced after the annual budget bill passes. As always, CDOT will continue to make sure the Department is at the table and working hard to ensure your voices are heard.

Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 34 bills for possible direct or indirect impacts to its employees, or the state’s transportation network. In the next few weeks legislators will vote on these bills while preparing to introduce the next round of legislation. Some bills heard this week include:

House Bill 16-1008 (Bus on Shoulder). The House and the Senate passed CDOT’s priority bill this week. While it did not move as fast as we would have liked on the legislative calendar, it is through and now buses may start driving on the shoulder on US 36 during congested traffic times. Thank you to our sponsors, Representatives J. Becker and Winter, and Senators Cooke and Heath, as well as a thank you to our partners on the US 36 corridor, the local governments and RTD.

Senate Bill 16-123 (Prohibit Switchable Transponders for HOV Lanes). This bill, as drafted, prevents CDOT and HPTE from requiring switchable transponders in HOV lanes. The intent of the bill is to promote free travel in HOV and HOT lanes for HOV vehicles. CDOT had multiple negotiations with the sponsor of the bill this week.

During second readings on Thursday, Senator Jones placed an amendment on the bill that requires the Department to remit back \$15 to customers who purchased a switchable transponder. This has a fiscal impact to CDOT of around \$1M. The Senate laid the bill over twice to allow for additional conversations with CDOT.

Senate Bill 16-122 (Additional Oversight of CDOT). The Senate Committee amended this bill on Tuesday to remove the section of the bill that required CDOT to go before the Capital Development Committee for approval on constructing new buildings and purchasing property. The rest of the bill stayed the same and may need some minor amendments in the House. The bill awaits final action in the Senate.

House Bill 16- 1138 (General Fund Transfers for State Infrastructure). The House State Affairs committee killed this bill on Wednesday. The bill would have allowed for SB228 transfers to continue after five years even if the transfers were halved or zeroed out due to TABOR limits.



Recently Introduced Legislation

House Bill 16-1273 (CDOT Parking Enforcement). This bill provides clarity on what authority CDOT has to enforce parking requirements at the Park-n-Rides the Department owns. CDOT has no intent in providing parking enforcement on the vast majority of the parking facilities around the state; however, there is one in particular, where the Department allows private shuttle services to use. The shuttle customers park for multiple days, crowding out CDOT customers using the Bustang service. CDOT wants to establish a multi-modal hub at this facility, but also must protect the short term parking for Bustang riders. This bill allows the Department to delineate short and long term parking and enforce the parking with graduating fines over multiple offenses.

House Bill 16-1281 (Bi-Weekly Pay for State Employees). Beginning July 2017, the state will begin paying employees twice a month. This bill would allow for a delay in implementing that process if there are still changes needed in the new human resource information system. If there is a delay, the state will notify employees and allow for a payday loan that can be repaid over time.

If you have any questions on these or any other legislative issues, please contact Andy Karsian at 303-757-9073. Weekly memos and our bill tracking chart are available online at: <http://www.coloradodot.info/about/governmentrelations/state-government-liaison>.

